

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A positioning system for a moveable platform comprising:
 - at least one active array comprised of at least one light emitting element for transmitting a binary encoded identification positioned at a known location;
 - at least one camera for acquiring an image of said at least one active array;
 - means for receiving said binary encoded identification from said image;
 - means for processing said image to determine the position of said active array with respect to said moveable platform; and
 - means for combining said received binary encoded identification and said determined position to calculate a position of said moveable platform.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least one camera is affixed to said moveable platform and said at least one active array is affixed to a doorframe.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said moveable platform is an elevator.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein of said at least one light emitting elements are selected from the group consisting of a Light Emitting Diode (LED), an IR light emitter, a visible light emitter, and a UV frequency light emitter.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 additionally comprising a database in which is stored position information of each of said at least one active array.
6. A method for determining a position of a moveable platform comprising the steps of:
 - providing a plurality of active arrays at fixed positions each active array comprising at least one light emitting element for transmitting a binary encoded identification;
 - affixing at least one camera to a moveable platform;
 - imaging at least one of said plurality of active arrays with said at least one camera to produce an image;
 - performing image processing on said image to receive said binary coded identification and to determine a position with respect to said moveable platform; and

combining said binary coded identification with said position of said active array to determine a location of said moveable platform.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein providing said plurality of active arrays comprises providing said at least one light emitting elements selected from the group consisting of a Light Emitting Diode (LED), an IR light emitter, a visible light emitter, and a UV frequency light emitter.
8. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of retrieving a position of said active array from a database using said binary encoded identification.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein said affixing said at least one camera to a moveable platform comprises affixing said at least one camera to an elevator.
10. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of dynamically configuring at least one of said active arrays.